

VII

CORRESPONDENCE

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to the questions raised in the October number of the B.J.V.D. by "A Puzzled C.T." I would reply as follows:—

QUESTION 1

(1) The death was probably due to congenital syphilis.

(3) It may have been a case of paternal transmission—the father only being syphilitic—and the ovum being infected by the sperm of the father and occurring without infection of the mother.

The question of paternal transmission is a very debatable one, but it is generally agreed to be possible.

(4) The mother's W. R. should be taken at intervals, and certainly she should be treated if she becomes pregnant.

N.B.—(1) The mother may be not infected.

(2) The infection in the mother may be latent, and the W. R. may not become + till later.

In many such cases the woman shows tertiary lesions of the skin and mucous membranes after the menopause, up to then having presented no clinical signs of syphilis.

The woman may, however, later become infected by coitus, through the sperm of the man infecting her through an abrasion of the vulva, vagina or cervix, and she then shows all the manifestations of syphilis 1 and 2.

QUESTION 2

This is a neurological matter, and I am hardly able to give an answer.

M. S.